

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 151105Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2136

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0310

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, LA
SUBJECT: DEAN CASE

REF: A) STATE 006319 (EXDIS)
B) VIENTIANE 0229
C) VIENTIANE 0117
D) STATE 004028 (EXDIS)

1. WE BELIEVE IT IS NOW TIME FOR DEPARTMENT TO CALL IN
LAO AMBASSADOR KHAMPHAN PANYA, REVIEW WITH HIM FACTS OF
DEAN/SHARMAN CASE, AND STRESS SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG
VIEWS THEIR CONTINUED ETENTION BY PATHET LAO. DEPARTMENT
MAY WISH TO CITE FACT THAT CASE IS ALREADY COMPLICATING
PGNU RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA, AS EVIDENCED BY CANCELLA-
TION OF SOTH PHETRASY'S MISSION.

2. ASSUMING THAT THE AUSTRALIAN EPISODE AND OUR MORE
RECENT ACTIONS (REFS B AND C) HAVE PRODUCED NO RESPONSE
BY THE END OF THIS WEEK, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT
PREPARE MESSAGES FROM THE SECRETARY TO FONMIN PHOUMI
VONGVICHIT AND PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AS
PROPOSED REF D.

3. AFTER ALLOWING SHORT PERIOD FOR THESE HIGH-LEVEL
REPRESENTATIONS TO SINK IN, WE WOULD THEN PROPOSE TO HOLD
PRESS CONFERENCE HERE, PROVIDING DETAILS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE
OF THE CASE AND OUTLINING OUR EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
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RELEASE OF DEAN AND SHARMAN.

4. AT A SLIGHTLY LATER STAGE, WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT COULD USEFULLY ADD TO LEVEL OF PUBLICITY ON THE CASE, POSSIBLY BY MEANS OF STATEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT DAILY BRIEFING.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT VISIT BY HOWARD DEAN OR MRS. DEAN MIGHT BE PLANNED TENTATIVELY FOR THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY. ON A SECOND VISIT, WE PROPOSE CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN AND ALSO CALL ON PRIME MINISTER AND PRINCE SOUPHANOU-VONG.

6. FINALLY, AFTER CLEARING THE MANEUVER WITH SISOUK, WE PROPOSE TO GET THE WORD AROUND THAT HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO THE U.S.--ON WHICH HE WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY PATHET LAO SECRETARY GENERAL OF FINANCE--SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL DEAN IS RELEASED. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE MENTION OF POSSIBLE POW/MIA DEMONSTRATIONS IN NEW YORK SEEMED TO ASURE EMMET KAY'S RELEASE BEFORE PHOUMI GOT TO THE UN AND WE THINK A VERSION OF THIS PLOY IS APPLICABLE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRIP.

7. YET ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS SOME OFFICIAL ACTION TO DISCOURAGE TRAVEL BY PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS TO LAOS ON THE BASIS THAT RECENT EXPERIENCE SHOWS SUCH TRAVEL IS UNSAFE FOR PERSONS WHO USE GROUND TRANSPORTATION OR DEVIATE FROM REGULAR VIENTIANE-LUANG PRABANG TOURIST ROUTE. WE ARE STILL CONSIDERING HOW SUCH ADVICE MIGHT BEST BE COMMUNICATED; ONE POSSIBILITY IS THROUGH THE WIDELY-READ ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS IN BANGKOK. WE THINK THIS IS FLIMSY BUT MAY BE WORTH CONSIDERING.
WHITEHOUSE

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